

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

PG #68-4-2
Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Riverdale Park~~ Gray House (~~Rhode Island Street House~~)

and/or common ~~Riverdale~~ (Cleveland Avenue)

2. Location

street & number 5910 ^{Cleveland Avenue} ~~Rhode Island Avenue~~ not for publication

city, town Riverdale vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Peter E. Heyden and Jeffrey G. Ploskonka

street & number 5910 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.: 779-5968

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6969

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 236

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Unknown

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. FG 63-4-21

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This turn of the century, c. 1902, vernacular house is two and a half stories high with a cross gable roof and center chimney. It is finished with white painted clapboard now covered with modern vinyl siding. A small wing with gable roof extends off the rear of the house. The main windows are two light double hung sash. There are no shutters. The main facade, which faces east, has a porch with a gable roof extending the full width and wraps to face the east half of the north facade. It has plain posts with no remaining railing. The first story consists of a modern door in the left bay with two windows to the right. The second story has three window openings and the upper level has a small window. The north facade has two bays; the right has a three window projecting semi-hexagonal bay while the left bay on this fenestration as well as the remaining bays on the upper floors consist of two light windows. The south facade has random window openings with a side entry door in the west bay on the first story. It is otherwise unremarkable. The west facade has a one story summer kitchen which extends the full width of the wing. The kitchen is four bays wide with small four light windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG #68-4-21

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	local history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Situated on Lots 21, 22 and part of "A" in Block 50, the Gray House is a good example of turn of the century suburban vernacular architecture. It is located along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and was one of the earlier houses to be constructed in Riverdale Park. According to oral history, the house was constructed by the Riverdale Park Company in 1902. Speculative building such as this was common in early suburban developments. Oral history was necessary for dating due to gaps in tax assessment records. Block 50 of Riverdale Park is listed as being held by the Riverdale Park Company in 1900. For the years 1901-1915, neither the Company nor any individual are listed as holding the block. Beginning in 1916 the lots reappear in the records with various individuals listed as lot owners. To establish the date of 1902 interviews were conducted with current and previous owners and neighbors. The house is significant because the original owner, William Gray, husband of Henrietta, was the first chief of the Riverdale Park Fire Company. He is pictured in Town of Riverdale, Maryland, 1920-1970 with his crew of volunteers in the town's first fire house. Unfortunately, there have been considerable alterations made to the interior of the house. The exterior, while basically intact, has also gone through numerous changes. These were due primarily to a house fire which occurred in the late 1960's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG-63-4-21

Prince George's County Deeds: 37:441,2902:310, 2072:312, 4312:305, 5423:314, 6969:236; Wills: WHD4:497. Prince George's County Tax Assessment Records: MdHR 12,234, MdHR 50,264. Interviews with Peter Heyden, Jeffrey Ploskonka, Miss Dorothy Gilfert and Mrs.

10. Geographical Data

Elizabeth Dodge Klein

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Hilkeorganization The George Washington University date 4/2/90

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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21 State Circle
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